

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. Claims 2-12, 14, 16 and 18 are amended, and claims 1, 13, and 15 are cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, herein. As amended, claim 14 and 16 are independent.

Claims 14 and 16 are objected to as depending from rejected base claims.

Claims 14 and 16 are rewritten in independent form to overcome the objection. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 1, 13 and 15 are cancelled in view of the amendment of claims 14 and 16. Claims 2-11 and 18 are amended in view of the cancelled claims and to now depend from either independent claim 14 or independent claim 16, as applicable. Amendments to the recitals of these claims are also made in view of the change in the parentage. Claim 12 is amended to correct an obvious editorial error.

In view of the amendment of the claims, the prior art rejections are moot.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of

this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135
(Case No. 1228.42361X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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